and thus there is no capacity constraint to meet the increasing demand.

Wagon Procurement Policy

2343. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of the formation of Wagon India Limited in 1974;

(b) whether a decision was taken in 1993 to change the wagon procurement policy by acquiring wagons through open tender apart from Wagon India Limited;

(c) whether there was any policy decision for wagon pricing; and

(d) if so, when it was framed and when it was decided to be changed and the reason for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Wagon India Ltd. (WIL) was formed in 1974 with the objective to centrally negotiate prices and quantities with Railway Board, to distribute the order among the wagon builders, to assist the manufacturing units in procuring inputs and components etc., and arrange for their distribution among wagon builders and to keep abreast of developments in design and technology in the field of manufacture and disseminate these to producing units so that they do not suffer on account of any technical gap.

(b) The Railways have resorted to tender system since 1994-95 for procurement of a part of their wagon requirements.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. For procurement of wagon under the Rolling Stock Programme through Wagon India Ltd. (WIL), wagon prices are being fixed in accordance with recommendation of a BICP Committee on wagon prices which submitted its report in May, 1983.The Ministry of Railways have constituted a new Pricing Committee headed by Chief Advisor (Cost), Ministry of Finance in December, 1994. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Usefulness of Gulbakawali Plant for the Treatment of Eyes

2344. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any search for Gulbakawali plant which is described best and useful for treatment of eyes in Ayurved;

(b) what are the places in India where the above plant has been found available;

(c) whether the Government have got this plant patented; and

(d) if not, whether the Government of India would get the above plant patented before its patents reach in the hands of the prosperous and developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The plant is available throughout India.

(c) According to the provisions of Patents Act, 1970 of India plants are not patentable.

(d) Does not arise.

Contaminated Blood Supplied by Government-Run Blood Banks

2345. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints that the blood supplied from Govvernment-run blood banks in the country is contaminated; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to ensure that good quality blood is supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) One complaint was received during the year 1993 that P.G.I. Blood Bank Chandigarh issued untested blood to road accident patients after getting the consent from the relatives of the patients. No other complaint has been received against any Government Blood Bank.

(b) The Drug and Cosmetics Rules provide mandatory testing of blood for all blood transmissible diseases. For ensuring that good quality blood is supplied to all Government blood banks are being moderanised through provision of Blood Bank equipment. For testing of blood for HIV 150 Zonal Blood Testing Centres have been set up all over the country with linkages provided to blood banks located in the Government, private and voluntary sector. Rapid test kits are provided to District Level Blood Banks.

Allotment of Official Flats of IRCS

2346. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while many of the staff members of the IRCS Headquarters are in wait list for many years in respect of allotment of official flats, three large flats of the IRCS are lying vacant for over three years without care and unkept and consequently the flats are badly damaged and there has been substantial revenue loss;

(b) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for this negligence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) The Indian Red Cross Society have reported that three vacant flats have since been alloted to the eligible officers of the Society as per House Allotment Rules.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financing Institutes for the Cultivation of Medicinal Plant

2347. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are implementing a scheme for the cultivation of medicinal plants by financing Government and autonomous institutions in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what kind of medicinal plants are selected and cultivated under this scheme; and

(d) the number of Government and autonomous institutions in Maharashtra which are being financed under this scheme, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is implementing a scheme viz., 'Central Scheme for Development & Cultivation of Medicinal Plants' w.e.f. 1990-91. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to Government/Semi-Government Organisations under Central/State/UT Governments including Autonomous Bodies/Statutory Organisations etc. (directly controlled by the Government). The eligible institutions should have basic infrastructure including minimum five acres of cultivable land; technical know-how and preferably some experience in cultivation of medicinal plants. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for components like fencing/ land shaping; irrigation facilities; equipments/shed and miscellaneous expenditure.

(c) Scarce and identified species of medicinal plants which are in great demand but are short in supply, required for preparation of drugs of Indian System